



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

I am disposed to believe it lay buried very close to the large jar, and fell down in the cliff with it.

The fragments of all these jars were thrown into a heap of stones broken for repairing roads, and much of it carted off before I reached the quarry; what I got were recovered by having the residue of several tons of broken stones sifted and examined by workmen. I have deposited the specimens in the Museum of the Academy.

Note.—A few days ago I had the opportunity of seeing the late Dr. Petrie's collection of sepulchral vases, through the kindness of Mr. Clibborn. He directed my attention to the fragments of one in particular, which was of unusual size, probably as large as the great vase I have described: of this about one-third remains in broken pieces. It is entered by Dr. Petrie in his Catalogue, but I know not on what authority, as "portions of a *regal urn* found in Co. Sligo." It has rude elevations or ridges running obliquely over the exterior, and decussating, which produces a large chequered ornamentation; within those are rough bosses, that appear intended for imitating flowers, very similar to the roses on my large vase; they are, however, executed in coarser and more primitive style.

XXXVI.—ON A CURIOUS INSCRIBED STONE FOUND AT TULLAGH CHURCH-YARD, NEAR CABINTEELY, CO. DUBLIN. By HENRY PARKINSON, Esq.

[Read June 22, 1868.]

DURING a recent visit to the ancient burying-place of Tullagh, which contains within its precincts many objects of interest to the antiquarian, my attention was attracted to a very curious inscribed stone which lay close to the ruins of the old church of Tullagh, almost completely hid with earth and weeds. On clearing away the latter, I discovered certain circular carvings on its upper surface. As I can find no reference to it either in the writings of that observant antiquarian, Dr. Petrie, or in any of the works I have consulted on the subject, I am inclined to think that no one has hitherto noticed it; and, therefore, annex the following particulars, with a view of drawing the attention of antiquarians to a very interesting specimen of a class of ancient monuments which the present Bishop of Limerick designates as "previously undescribed" in a paper read before the Academy on the 13th of February, 1860.

The stone which, for the sake of convenience, I have represented in an upright position in the preceding Figure, is about 5 feet long, by from 17 inches, tapering to 11 inches broad, and, as far as I could ascertain, from 6 to 8 inches thick. It presents no appearance of ever having been dressed with the chisel; but, on what I suppose is the smoother side, is inscribed three sets of well-defined rings. The sets or groups differ in size, as the one at the base, or broadest part of the stone, is 15 inches in diameter; the centre one 13, and the third only 11 inches. They all appear to have had the same number (four) of rings, with the exception of the third, or top one, which seems to have had only three. The three sets are connected with each other and both ends of the stone by almost straight lines, which are now barely discernible. The larger set has in addition two lines or grooves connecting the outward circle with each side of the stone. The centres of the three sets are of a peculiar construction, not consisting of the usual cup-shaped hollows, or rock basins, found in connexion with inscriptions of a similar kind in other parts of the country, but of bosses, having their apexes slightly under the general surface of the stone.

Without venturing to express an opinion on a subject which has occupied the attention of such a distinguished antiquary as the Bishop of Limerick, I will only remark, that it is admitted by all I have consulted on the subject that these kinds of carvings are of very great antiquity, and are, perhaps (as I have read somewhere), the remains of the one primitive race which overspread the northern hemisphere of Europe prior to the formation of the present tribes. I will also add, that the following conjecture is worthy of consideration, namely, that the inscribed stone at Tullagh was the monument of some former chief, and the carvings representing three shields were the symbols of his name, rank, and tribe, similar to the distinctive marks, called "Totems," used by the North American Indians of the present day. I subsequently visited the old graveyard of Rathmichael, which is about half a mile from Tullagh, for the purpose of seeing the two inscribed monuments the late Dr. Petrie gives an account of in the "Dublin Examiner" for October, 1816, and referred to by the Bishop of Limerick. I found in the graveyard no less than six of these stones, all of them but two so defaced that little is to be seen but the centre cups and parts of the rings. The two I first mentioned are now used as modern head-stones, and probably, as Dr. Petrie states, formed once the one monument. The rings composing the groups on these stones are pretty well defined, but not at all so perfect or regular as those on the stone at Tullagh, nor have they the bosses in their centre.

I am strongly inclined to think, from the number of these stones at Rathmichael, that at a remote period of this island's history there existed, either there or in the immediate vicinity, a burial place of note; and, further, from the fact that the stones vary so much in size, some having only the remains of one group of rings, and no room for any

more, others having two, and only one with three groups, as the one at Tullagh, it is not unreasonable to suppose that the rank and station of those buried were denoted by the numbers of the groups or rings on each monumental stone, as also by the number of the rings in each individual group. But these are only conjectures, and it is to be hoped that before long some light will be thrown on this interesting subject.
